

## **From the Desk of FIANZ**

### **FIANZ Participation at the Interfaith Meetings**

In recognizing FIANZ as the sole Islamic body looking after the welfare of the Muslim community in New Zealand, the Government twice invited FIANZ President to be part of New Zealand delegation to represent New Zealand at the Interfaith Meetings held in Indonesia and Australia. As President of FIANZ, Br Javed Khan, was a member of the New Zealand delegation for the Inaugural Interfaith Meeting held under the patronage of the Australian and Indonesian Foreign Ministers in Jog Jakarta, Indonesia in October 2004. Br Javed Khan was also honoured by the invitation from the Foreign Minister's Office to be part of the New Zealand delegation at the Interfaith Conference held in Melbourne, Australia, from 11-16 April 2005.

Br Javed Khan said that by participating at these international events, FIANZ prestige and standing has been further raised.

### **VIP Visitors**

In the last couple of months a stream of VIP visitors have been visiting FIANZ. Firstly, there was a group of officials/veterinarians from the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Religious Affairs Departments. This visit was sponsored by one of the Meat Companies in New Zealand. During their visit, they inspected the Meat Plants and scrutinized the Halal standards of FIANZ. They also held discussions with Chairman, Ulama Board and Executive Manager of FIANZ. The visitors conveyed their extreme satisfaction on the Halal standards adopted by FIANZ.

Another important visitor to FIANZ was Dr Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al-Zaid, the Assistant Secretary-General of Mosque, Muslim World League (Al Rabita). The primary objective of Dr Abdul Rahman in visiting New Zealand was to assess the need (especially Wellington Mosque expansion programme). Besides Wellington, Dr Abdul Rahman was also welcomed and given warm hospitality in Auckland by Br Javed Khan, President of FIANZ and other Council members.

The Third visitor to FIANZ office was Prof Hideomi Muto (Thayyab Muto), Director of Shairah, Japanese Muslim Association. Prof Muto visited Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. FIANZ arranged for him to visit Halal Meat and Poultry Plants in Christchurch and Wellington. He also held discussions with Chairman, Ulama Board and Executive Manager of FIANZ. Prof Muto was also given a warm reception in Wellington.

### **FIANZ Office**

The office of FIANZ has been relocated to its spanking new premises in the ground floor of the new Kilbirnie Mosque. The offices were especially retrofitted for FIANZ. There are three offices, a reception area, a large conference room, a storage room and amenities.

With the shift in the location (in the Mosque), FIANZ has anchored itself in the Mosque premises. The move is considered to be very positive for FIANZ as it will boost our standing as an organization working for the benefit and well-being of the NZ Muslim ummah.

With the change in location, it is hoped that other changes would follow suit. FIANZ is on the way of rejuvenating itself with new vision and mission. What was important is the "himmat" or resoluteness in all of us to see that FIANZ succeeds in every aspect.

### **Collaboration between FIANZ and New Zealand Police College**

In the past few months, FIANZ has been invited by the Police College in Porirua, Wellington, to deliver lectures to the Senior Police Officers who will be joining the community and youth policing in the society. These lectures are delivered from the religious and secular perspectives of Islam vis-à-vis the Muslim Community in New Zealand. FIANZ has been represented by Chairman, Ulama Board and the Executive Manager of FIANZ to participate in the lecture series. The Police College has positively acknowledged the role played by FIANZ in inter-racial harmony and peace.

### **FIANZ AGM 2005**

The Annual General Meeting 2005 of FIANZ is scheduled to take place on 21-22 May 2005 in Wellington. The Council and AGM meetings will be held in the new Conference Room of FIANZ office. Information about the AGM has been sent to all Local Associations and they are expected to nominate their representatives to attend the AGM in due course.

### **Annual Women's Conference**

The FIANZ-sponsored Annual Women's Conference organized by the Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand will be held in Christchurch over the weekend (22-24 April 2005). Full report will be published after the Conference.

### **FIANZ Annual Quran Competition**

The Annual FIANZ Quran Competition has been scheduled to take place on 11-12 June 2005. The venue for the Competition is Blockhouse Bay Islamic Centre. Unlike previous years, this year, the Competition will be held over two days with a few more events. It is divided into three Categories as follows:

Category I - For participants up to 12 years of age as of 11 June 2005

Category II - For participants between the ages of 12-15 as of 11 June 2005

Category III - For participants between the ages of 15-25 as of 11 June 2005

Information regarding the Quran Competition (Rules/Regulations and Registration) has been sent to all Local Associations and Trusts. For further information/clarification, please contact the following:

Sheikh Mohammed Amir, Chairman, Ulama Board, Wellington, Tel : (04) 387 4226, Fax: (04) 387 4227 or  
FIANZ Office, 7-11 Queens Drive, Lyall Bay, Wellington, Tel : (04) 801 6391, Fax: (04) 801 6392

## Would You Use Islamic Loans/Mortgages in New Zealand?

The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) is undertaking limited research to determine if there is sufficient interest in New Zealand for Shariah based Loans and Mortgages.

### Islamic Finance

Receiving or paying interest is forbidden under Shariah. Under Shariah, interest is neither paid nor received between a borrower and a lender.

Many western countries are now seeing the rapid introduction of successful Islamic loans and investment schemes whereby interest is neither paid nor received. These allow Muslims to utilise legitimate and effective ways to purchase homes, cars, businesses and to prosper while remaining within our faith.

Here are some interesting statistics from around the world:

There are now over 200 Islamic Financial Institutions (e.g. Banks).

In some countries Islamic loans are in greater demand by non-Muslims.

The estimated size of Islamic banking assets is USD\$250 billion.

The estimated size of assets managed by Islamic windows is USD\$300 billion.

Islamic banking growth is 15%-35% globally.

Malaysia witnessed 35% profitability growth in its Islamic banking sector, which compares to 7% profitability growth of the conventional (non-Islamic) banking system.

FIANZ would like to change this but requires information from New Zealand Muslims so that the level of interest can be established. FIANZ requires interested people to complete the attached simple questionnaire.

While FIANZ requires just 200 responses, please ensure you share copies of this questionnaire with your friends and relatives to ensure good coverage.

### Progress in New Zealand

In New Zealand there are currently no Halal alternatives available for New Zealand Muslims who wish to borrow money to purchase homes, cars or businesses etc. Further, banks currently do not offer Halal investment and savings accounts.

This can cause hardship for those who wish to live according to Islamic ways but are closed out from the rising value of real estate.

FIANZ and Deloitte – Islamic Finance Project

Over the last 18 months FIANZ and Deloitte, a professional services firm have been working together to raise the awareness of Islamic Finance in New Zealand (including Islamic banking and Islamic Insurance).

### This has involved:

New Zealand roadshows to prospective organisations, banks and regulatory bodies — using Islamic Banking experts.

Public awareness through mainstream media.

Establishing a list of interested parties willing to see the introduction of Islamic finance.

An expression of interest issued to prospective investors.

**We have reached a key milestone which now requires gathering some data that can demonstrate a sufficient market so that prospective investors can take the next steps in making Islamic finance a reality in New Zealand.**

**Please complete the attached questionnaire to support this programme.**

## Confidential Questionnaire

### Introduction

This questionnaire is sponsored by Deloitte and the Federation of Islamic Association of New Zealand (FIANZ).

Its purpose is to gauge whether there is sufficient interest in establishing a Shariah (Islamic law) compliant financial institution in New Zealand.

All information is strictly for statistical purposes only and remains the property of FIANZ. Deloitte, a professional services firm is responsible for collecting and holding this information on behalf of FIANZ. Results of this research may be shared with FIANZ-approved organisations who can demonstrate capability and willingness to offer Islamic products to New Zealand Muslims.

### Deadline

Please complete the form and submit on or before Saturday, 30 April 2005 as follows:

**Safety Box:** Place into safety boxes at the following selected

Mosques Vermont St, Auckland

Mt Roskill, Auckland

Blockhouse Bay, Auckland  
Al Mustafa, South Auckland  
**By Fax:** Attention: Faris Azimullah, Deloitte  
Fax: (09) 309 4947

**By Post:** Attention: Faris Azimullah, Deloitte PO Box 33 Auckland  
This document may be downloaded from FIANZ at [www.fianz.co.nz](http://www.fianz.co.nz)  
For further information, please contact Faris Azimullah on 021 485 021.

Thank you for filling out this form. Please ensure your friends and relatives submit their responses on time to ensure good coverage.

**Questionnaire** (Please circle)

1. Do you understand the key concepts of Islamic Banking? YES NO
2. Are you aware that the payment or receiving of interest (Riba), which is currently the only type of banking available to you in New Zealand, is forbidden by the Holy Qur'an? YES NO
3. Would you support and feel more comfortable using a Shariah compliant Financial Institution in New Zealand approved by FIANZ if this was available? YES NO
4. How many children do you have aged under 18 years old?
5. Do you have a home loan? YES NO

**If Yes, Amount (\$):**  
**Name of Lender(s):**

6. If there was an equivalent loan available in New Zealand that was shariah compliant and of similar cost, I/we would switch to it? YES NO
7. Do you plan to purchase real estate within 1 year? YES NO

**If Yes, indicate approximate Islamic or other loan required (\$):**

8. Is the interest rate on your current home loan fixed for a term with penalties for early repayment?  
If Fixed, What is the Fixed Term Remaining? FIXED NOT FIXED
9. Do you have funds on deposit? YES NO

**If Yes, Amount (\$):**  
**Name of Institution(s):**

10. Do you have any other loans or credit facilities e.g. car, boat, business, credit cards? If yes please provide details of loans including term, interest rate and early repayment penalties if any. Please use the space below.

Credit Card  
Business

Car  
Boat

Other YES NO

11. How much does your household earn annually before tax (NZ\$)? Tick below:

\$0 - 30,000  
\$30,000 - 60,000  
\$60,000 - 90,000  
\$90,000+

12. Any other Comments

13. (Optional) Name

Phone: